

1 CLAIMS

2 What is claimed is:

3 1. A shoe fastening device to facilitate movement of the shoe between an open and a
4 closed position comprising:

5 a base plate including a flat surface, and distal and proximal ends;

6 a pair of substantially parallel spaced apart rod-like members;

7 a sliding tightener device;

8 a central tightening member having two spaced apart arms each having distal and
9 proximal ends, the distal ends pivotally connected to the base plate at the proximal end of
10 the base plate;

11 wherein the base plate further includes two spaced apart protruding flange-like
12 edges with connection points for receiving ends of the pair of substantially parallel
13 spaced apart rod-like members and permitting the members to rotate or pivot at those
14 points;

15 wherein the substantially parallel spaced apart rod-like members are pivotally
16 connected to opposite sides of the sliding tightener device;

17 the device movable between an open position and a closed position, wherein the
18 sliding tightener device moves toward the proximal ends of each of the arms of the
19 central tightening member when the device is in a closed position;

20 the device being connectable to the shoe, the shoe having an upper portion with
21 two sides having spaced apart ends, wherein the base plate is connectable to the inside of
22 the tongue and the central tightening member arms connectable to the ends of the sides,
23 such that when the sliding tightener device is moved upward along the central tightening

1 member arms, the device collapses into a closed position, compressing the arms toward
2 each other, establishing a predetermined tightness for the closed position.

3 2. The device according to claim 1, wherein the flange-like edges of the base plate
4 further include a nodule for releasably locking the device in the closed position.

5 3. The device according to claim 1, wherein the arms of the central tightening
6 member form a substantially V-shaped member.

7 4. The device according to claim 1, wherein movement of the sliding tightener
8 provides for continuous, smooth tightening and release between the open and closed
9 positions of the device.

10 5. The device according to claim 1, further including a button attached to the distal
11 end of the base plate for connecting and/or affixing the device to the tongue of the shoe.

12 6. The device according to claim 5, wherein the button has magnetic properties with
13 respect to the sliding tightener device such that when the device is in a closed position,
14 the button provides further releasable securement of the sliding tightener device to
15 maintain it in the closed position.

16 7. The device according to claim 1, wherein components of the device are formed of
17 a lightweight material.

18 8. The device according to claim 1, wherein components of the device are formed of
19 plastic.

20 9. The device according to claim 1, wherein components of the device are formed of
21 metal.

22 10. The device according to claim 1, wherein the sliding tightener device further
23 includes at least one slotted opening sized, constructed and positioned for receiving the

1 central tightening member arms to provide for smooth, continuous movement of the
2 sliding tightener device along the arms.

3 11. A shoe having a device to facilitate tightening and releasing the shoe from a
4 user's foot, the device comprising:

5 a base plate including a flat surface, and distal and proximal ends;

6 a pair of substantially parallel spaced apart rod-like members;

7 a sliding tightener device;

8 a central tightening member having two spaced apart arms each having distal and
9 proximal ends, the distal ends pivotally connected to the base plate at the proximal end of
10 the base plate;

11 wherein the base plate further includes two spaced apart protruding flange-like
12 edges with connection points for receiving ends of the pair of substantially parallel
13 spaced apart rod-like members and permitting the members to rotate or pivot at those
14 points;

15 wherein the substantially parallel spaced apart rod-like members are pivotally
16 connected to opposite sides of the sliding tightener device;

17 the device movable between an open position and a closed position, wherein the
18 sliding tightener device moves toward the proximal ends of each of the arms of the
19 central tightening member when the device is in a closed position;

20 the device being connectable to a shoe, the shoe having an upper portion with two
21 sides having spaced apart ends facing a tongue, wherein the base plate is connectable to
22 the inside of the tongue and the central tightening member arms connectable to the ends
23 of the sides, such that when the sliding tightener device is moved upward along the

1 central tightening member arms, the device collapses into a closed position, compressing
2 the arms toward each other and pulling the tongue downward, establishing a
3 predetermined tightness for the closed position.

4 12. The device according to claim 11, wherein the flange-like edges of the base plate
5 further include a nodule for releasably locking the device in the closed position.

6 13. The device according to claim 11, wherein the arms of the central tightening
7 member form a substantially V-shaped member.

8 14. The device according to claim 11, wherein movement of the sliding tightener
9 provides for continuous, smooth tightening and release between the open and closed
10 positions of the device.

11 15. The device according to claim 11, further including a button attached to the distal
12 end of the base plate for connecting and/or affixing the device to the tongue of the shoe.

13 16. The device according to claim 15, wherein the button has magnetic properties
14 with respect to the sliding tightener device such that when the device is in a closed
15 position, the button provides further releasable securement of the sliding tightener device
16 to maintain it in the closed position.

17 17. The device according to claim 11, wherein components of the device are formed
18 of a lightweight material.

19 18. The device according to claim 11, wherein components of the device are formed
20 of plastic.

21 19. The device according to claim 11, wherein components of the device are formed
22 of metal.

1 20. The device according to claim 11, wherein the sliding tightener device further
2 includes at least one slotted opening sized, constructed and positioned for receiving the
3 central tightening member arms to provide for smooth, continuous movement of the
4 sliding tightener device along the arms.

5 21. A method fastening a shoe on a user's foot, comprising the steps of:
6 providing a shoe having the device according to claim 10;
7 positioning the device in the open position by pulling the tongue of the shoe upward;
8 a user inserting a foot into the shoe;
9 the user applying pressure on the tongue of the shoe, thereby moving the sliding tightener
10 device in a continuous, smooth manner, from the distal end of the central tightening
11 members to the proximal end thereof to move the device into the closed position.

12 22. The method according to claim 21, further including the step of:
13 adjusting the tightness of the shoe when in the closed position by adjusting the
14 substantially parallel spaced apart members to a different connection point toward either
15 the distal or proximal ends of the base plate.

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